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LEARNING NEW AND BETTER METHODS  
OF FARMING AND HOMEMAKING

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A radio talk by Gertrude L. Warren, Office of Cooperative Extension Work, delivered in the 4-H club radio program, National Farm and Home Hour, over a network of 46 associate NBC stations, Saturday, May 6, 1933.

Good friends everywhere, it is always a pleasure to discuss 4-H club happenings with you, especially after listening to such fine club stories as those we have just heard. However, today I want to chat especially with you 4-H club girls and boys. As you probably know, these are busy days in Washington. Of most interest this week is the imminent passage of the Act to Restore Farm Purchasing Power. Now, it is for all of us to do our part in making the new national policy for agriculture a real success. One indication that your efforts will count considerably is that with each past year of farm distress, you have steadily increased your membership until now you number 930,000 -- yes, nearly a million strong. Another indication that you can help considerably in making this farm act a success is that by means of your 4-H club work you have learned to solve many of your own home and farm problems.

Club reports give a vivid picture of how you 4-H girls participated in 1932 in the national extension program to increase farm production of garden, dairy, meat and poultry products in keeping with the dietary needs of each member of the family; to can, dry and store enough for an adequate winter food supply; to make, repair and care for your clothing according to a well-planned budget, saving many family dollars; and to cooperate in the home so that the money available for other needs could be spent in the best interests of all.

Reports show also how you club boys are learning to meet changing conditions--how you have obtained better prices for farm products not only through direct selling but also through adjusting quality to demand, and how you are learning to lower costs of production by the use of good seed, the control of disease and insects, the better culling of your livestock, as well as by a more serious study of the farm business as a whole.

All this indicates very definitely that you 4-H club members have caught the meaning of the new national agricultural policy; you are ready to think of agriculture in terms of your neighbors' production as well as your own---so that, in the future, surplus production will not be permitted to ruin farm home standards of living.

In 4-H club work, you have learned already that even though you are skillful, efficient producers, you may not achieve a satisfying farm life because of low prices. From now on, the big task of the whole club movement will be to "gear" in with the new national agricultural policy--producing what the market will absorb with production reasonably distributed among  
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neighbors. Through your well-organized club meetings, you have learned how to cooperate with neighboring young people. The next step in the march toward better days for farming is to extend that cooperation to include a larger group, and, most of all, to follow the leadership that will control production and insure fair prices through an understanding of the national and world food needs and a careful study of the amount to be produced on the individual farms of each community.

Moreover, the new agriculture will involve learning how better to live through wholesome recreation, reading, and those other activities that may enrich the leisure hours made possible through an intelligent application of the principle of controlled production. As a group---nearly a million strong---- you 4-H club girls and boys of America can be a power in developing a true understanding of the possibilities ahead and a staunch faith in their ultimate realization---The challenge is yours!